

**Minimum wage: 100 demos won't change 'No' decision**  
**Malaysiakini.com**  
**May 3, 2008**

Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has shot down the Malaysian Trade Union Congress' (MTUC) demands that the government implement a RM1,200 minimum wage policy.  
MCPX

abdullah ahmad badawi pak lah pc 060607 seriousCommenting on MTUC's plans to hold a protest in front of Parliament house on Wednesday over the matter, the prime minister cited inflation and limited government funds for rejecting the suggestion.

"They can have 100 demonstrations but if we can't, we can't... as simple as that. If we can give, we give. I would like to make the people happy if I can by giving more money but if we can't, we can't," said Abdullah in a Bernama report.

The premier was speaking to reporters after attending the official Workers Day Gathering 2008 at the Putra Stadium in Bukit Jalil today.

### **Cause inflation**

Abdullah said the decision to reject MTUC's demands was difficult as the government was responsible for taking care of the country's economy.

"I don't know why this approach (demonstration) is being used. It is as though we don't care about the people. It's not easy for us to make a decision.

"What could be done immediately and if it is good, of course we will do it. But if we have some doubts about introducing it now, we cannot do it.

"I have to be responsible to the others, and you know this is inflationary. When there is an increase in pay, the price (of goods) will go up. What is the meaning if giving additional pay when tomorrow you have to pay more for the products you need?" he asked.

The premier advised MTUC to hold further discussions on the issue with other stakeholders.